the Central Government under section-9 of the Mines and Minierals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957. The rates of royalty can be revised upwards on in three years. Excise Duty is imposed by Central Government on coal raised and despatched and coke manufacture and despatched under section 6 of Coal Mines (Conservation and Development) Act, 1974. In terms of that Act there is at present a ceiling of Rs. 10/-per tonne within which the rates of excise can be fixed.

State Governments were levying various cesses on coal under several State legislations. Supreme Court/High Courts have since struck down provisions of some of these legislations and collection of cesses has stopped to that extent. Cess Acts passed by some other States are sub-judice in various courts.

Some other taxes such as Sales Tax are also being levied by the State Governments. In case of inter-state sales, Central Sales Tax is attracted.

Filling up the Backlog Vacancies Reserved for Physically Handicapped

4452. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:
SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased o state:

(a) whether the Government propose to tart a special recruitment drive for filling up ıe backlog vacancies reserved for physially handicapped persons in the same patırn as in the case of SC and ST categories; nd

(b) whether the Government propose to :tend the reservation for physically handiıpped to A & B class Government jobs ;o?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

Light Transport Aircraft

4453. SHRI RADHIKA RAJAN PRAMANIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent to produce prototypes of Light Tranposrt Aircraft (LTA) at National Aeronautical Labouratory (NAL) at Bangalore; and

(b) the time by which the LTAs are likely to be put into commercial Airlines as Air Taxis?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) The pre-investment expenditure towards production of the prototypes of the Light Transport Aircraft(LTA) has been Rs. 75 lakhs since November, 1989 when the feasibility study was launched.

(b) The question of operation of LTA in service will arise only after the prototypes have been tested and certified air worthy.

[*Translation*]

IAS Officers Working in the Central Secretariat, Delhi

4454. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of IAS Officers working in Central Secretariat, Delhi and the Cadre to which they belong; and